

and various events designed to bring family and friends together (including her famous Reach One, Teach One program). Hattie can only be described as a passionate, purposeful, ambitious, and charitable person. She was always willing to lend a hand in support of a cause, whether large or small.

Hattie was an employee of the Equitable Life Assurance Society in New York for thirty years before retiring. Hattie was always dedicated to the service of her community. She will be dearly missed by all who worked with her.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the life of Ms. Hattie Ruth Persons-Nelson.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 14, 2011

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, today our national debt is \$14,164,360,361,278.80.

On January 6th, 2009, the start of the 111th Congress, the national debt was \$10,638,425,746,293.80.

This means the national debt has increased by \$3,525,934,614,985.00 since then.

This debt and its interest payments we are passing to our children and all future Americans.

RECOGNIZING RENA GOOLSBY ON HER 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 14, 2011

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Ms. Rena Goolsby upon the occasion of her 100th birthday. Ms. Goolsby has lived a long life full of service to her community and to her family, and I am humbled to recognize her today.

Rena Allene Howard was born in Montgomery, Alabama on March 14, 1911. She was the third of five children to John and Genella Howard. In 1928, at the age of 17, Ms. Goolsby married her sweetheart, Walter Goolsby. The two remained married for 57 years until his passing in 1985. She is the matriarch of her family, raising two children, three grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.

For many years, Ms. Goolsby was an integral member of Coosada Baptist Church, and she was granted Lifetime Member status in the Garden Club of Millbrook, Alabama. She is also a member of the Red Hat Society.

Mr. Speaker, Rena Goolsby is valued member of our community, a true "Southern Lady", and an inspiration to all who have had the privilege of being a part of her life. My wife Vicki and I wish her a happy birthday and her entire family all the best.

SHANYN SPRINGFIELD

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 14, 2011

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Shanyin Springfield for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Shanyin Springfield is a 12th grader at Pomona High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Shanyin Springfield is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Shanyin Springfield for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all her future accomplishments.

A TRIBUTE TO GLORIA THOMAS

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 14, 2011

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Ms. Gloria Thomas.

Gloria Thomas was born and raised in the Bedford Stuyvesant section of Brooklyn, New York. She currently resides in the East New York community, where she has lived for 35 years. Ms. Thomas is a graduate of Manual Training High School and later attended New York Community College. She has a certificate in Advanced Church Ministries from the Evangelical Training Association.

For over twenty years, Ms. Thomas worked as a payroll manager for Robert B. Samuels Electrical Contractors. She retired in 2000 and became a volunteer at the Penn Wortman Senior Center. On November 15, 2002, she became the President of the Penn Wortman Voices and later served as the program committee chairperson as well (June 2004–2010). As part of her duties, Ms. Thomas coordinated programs to entertain, inspire, and empower seniors. She is currently President of the FGC Penn Wortman Voices, where she and other choir members sing songs of inspiration at various events.

Ms. Thomas attends Universal Baptist Church where Reverend Dr. James R. Green, Jr. is the pastor. She has been a member of this church for over 20 years. Prior to her retirement, she served in the Food and Clothing Ministry, Celestial Choir and the Liturgical Dance Ministry. She is committed to securing a better quality of life for seniors. As a newly recruited board member of the East New York Council for the Aging, Inc., her primary goal is to continue to support the mission of providing adequate programs and services for seniors.

Ms. Thomas was featured in "Remembered Lives," Our Times Press, December 2005. On May 20, 2006, the East New York Interagency Council for the Aging honored Ms. Thomas for

her outstanding service and commitment to seniors. She also received a Beacon of Hope Award on August 5, 2006, from the East New York United Concerned Citizens, Inc. for her contribution and diligent work in the East New York community.

Ms. Thomas remains a committed member of the community. She still works closely with the New York Branch of the NAACP, the Local 3 IBEW Retirees Association (Brooklyn Chapter); and the East New York Interagency Council for the Aging. She thanks God for the energy and strength to continue her work in the community.

Ms. Thomas has a daughter and son-in-law, Denise and Paul Gary. She also has a granddaughter, Imani Safiya Gary, whom she loves dearly.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the life of Ms. Gloria Thomas.

RECOGNIZING SUPPORT FOR TAIWAN'S PARTICIPATION IN THE UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION FOR CLIMATE CHANGE

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 14, 2011

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and support Taiwan's bid for effective participation in the United Nations Framework Convention for Climate Change (UNFCCC).

Taiwan has experienced rapid economic growth and industrialization, and its technological advancement has played a significant role in the global economy. While Taiwan is a major world economy with 23 million residents, it is only recognized as a non-governmental organization (NGO) under the name of "Industrial Technology Research Institute" (ITRI) by the UNFCCC. This NGO status only allows Taiwan to partake in UNFCCC side events, which is neither effective nor appropriate.

This listing goes against the Convention's spirit and dampens the enthusiasm and expectations of the 23 million people of Taiwan. Taiwan's inability to participate in either the discussions over the post-Kyoto mechanism or the international carbon market has serious consequences affecting the welfare of the people and the development of Taiwan's industries.

As a co-chair of the Congressional Caucus on Taiwan, I know the value of the bilateral relationship and hope to increase relations with Taiwan's cooperation and participation in the UNFCCC. I hope that the leadership of the UNFCCC will soon invite Taiwan to participate in an official capacity as the World Health Assembly has invited Taiwan to participate in its activities as an official observer in 2009 and 2010. Taiwan, since the inauguration of President Ma Ying-jeou in 2008, has been a responsible member of the global community and deserves to be invited to the activities of the UNFCCC and other international conventions and organizations.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting Taiwan's participation in the United Nations Framework Convention for Climate Change.